

Notice to State Board of Medical Examiners Web site
and to State Board of Nursing Web site

NOTICE

A new rule was published in the New Jersey Register on December 16, 2002. This rule affects in-office practice by licensed physicians and podiatrists in New Jersey. It is the final part of the initiative to improve patient safety during in-office surgery in New Jersey. The rule governs licensed physicians and podiatrists who do not have privileges in a hospital to administer or supervise the administration of anesthesia and to perform surgery or special procedures in the office. The rule provides the eligibility requirements and the mechanism for such licensed physicians and podiatrists to apply to the State Board of Medical Examiners for alternative privileges for in-office practice, and it **gives the time line of compliance dates** for these sections of the rule to be fully effective.

Because the rule includes requirements for the personnel **that will be authorized** to work in the office with a physician or podiatrist, **once alternative privileges are granted**, it is very important that such practitioners understand both the immediate changes implicated and those changes that will not be effective for a year.

* The rule requires no **immediate changes in office personnel** utilized by a physician or podiatrist; - CRNAs may continue to work with physicians and podiatrists as they have been doing.

* The rule allows practitioners **one year** from the December 16, 2002 date of publication to apply for alternative privileges and during this **one year, there need not be any changes in office personnel** utilized by the practitioner. A practitioner who does not now have hospital privileges to supervise the administration of anesthesia may continue work with CRNAs and be simultaneously responsible for the performance of the surgery.

* The rule also provides that, **after the application** for alternative privileges is submitted to the Board, **there need not be any changes in the office personnel** utilized by the practitioner **until the Board acts** upon the application.

Application information and Answers to Frequently Asked Questions will shortly be available on the Website at <http://www.nj.gov/lps/ca/home.htm> and in hard copy, by request.

Any practitioner needing a more individualized explanation can contact the State Board of Medical Examiners by regular mail at State Board of Medical Examiners, PO Box 183, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0183 or by e-mail at askconsumeraffairs@dca.state.nj.us.